

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2961
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

REVIVAL OF EXISTING CANALS AND IRRIGATION CHANNELS

2961 SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any survey to assess the condition of the existing network of canals and irrigation channels
- (b) if so, the details thereof
- (c) whether Government proposes to revive the network to minimize the dependence on groundwater and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Evaluation studies for performance assessment of 35 number of completed Major/ Medium Irrigation Projects, spread over seven States, were taken up by Central Water Commission under this Ministry, in 2006 and subsequent years. The reports thereof suggest that overall water use efficiency in the evaluated projects varied from 13% to 62% (weighted average 36%), while the conveyance/ transmission efficiency varied from 47% to 91% (weighted average 69%). Some of the main reasons for low efficiency, as brought out by the reports, include poor maintenance of canals and distribution network resulting in growth of weed & vegetation, siltation of canals, damages in lining in lined canals, lack of control structures, poor management practices, provision of insufficient maintenance budget by the project authorities, etc.

(c) & (d) Water resources projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Role of Government of India is limited to being catalytic, providing technical support and in some cases partial financial assistance in terms with the existing schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

During 2016-17, ninety nine Major/Medium irrigation projects (and seven phases), prioritized in consultation with States, were taken up under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) for completion in mission mode, along with their Command Area Development works. Funding mechanism through NABARD has been provisioned under the Scheme, for Central Assistance, and if opted by the States, for the State Share as well with interest subvention beyond 6% by Government of India. Out of the above ninety nine projects, seven projects involve Renovation and Modernization works of canals, and have Ultimate Irrigation Potential of 327.76 thousand hectare. Out of this, 321.01 thousand hectare has been created, including 121.40 thousand hectare during 2016-2020. Four out of these seven prioritized projects have been reported to be completed.

Further, financial assistance is also being provided by this Ministry for a project named “Relining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder”, to address the problems of seepage and water-logging in the most vulnerable reaches, the proposal for which was approved by Government of India in 2017-2018. The estimated cost of the proposed works is Rs.1,976.74 crore (Price Level 2015), out of which central assistance to be provided by this Ministry is Rs.826.17 crore, in addition to Rs.156 crore released prior to 2018. The relining of Rajasthan Feeder envisages to save 560 cusec of water leading to stabilization/ improvement of irrigation in 98,739 hectare in Rajasthan, while relining of Sirhind Feeder envisages to save 256 cusec of water leading to stabilization/ improvement irrigation in 69,096 hectare (20,740 hectare in Rajasthan and 48,356 hectare in Punjab).
